

Islands, further on the Eastern Coast of Sumatra.

(g) Indragiri, with Mandah and Reteh.

8. Residency island of Banka with the Leper islands; area about 237 geographical square miles. Chief place, Muntok.

9. Assistant Residency Island of Billiton (I litung) with surrounding islands 154 in number. Chief place, Tandjong Pandan.

Riouw and dependencies, Banka, and Billiton are under direct Dutch rule.

A great deal has been done of late years towards the development of the rich resources of Sumatra, but there still remains a vast field for European capital and enterprise.

F. KEHDING.

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### THE KURAU DISTRICT, PÈRAK.

Kurau was originally a nest of pirates, and no one ventured to live near the *kwála*, the people living at Kampong Tuah, about 70 miles up the river. Many of the Kurau people were themselves pirates, and Colonel LOW, then Government Agent in Province Wellesley, in conjunction with TOH JENUA, Palawan, led, about fifty or sixty years ago, an expedition against Kurau and destroyed a number of piratical boats. Colonel LOW created TOH JENUA Palawan of Kurau in the place of Nakkoda UDDIN, who was a pirate.

No *hasil klamin* was originally paid in Kurau. Kurau formerly extended to Pasir Gedabu and was under Panglima BUKIT GANTANG. Hilir Kurau was itself given to Datoh REJAB under the Panglima. After this the Bendahara came to Kurau and claimed *makan Raja* namely 30 *gantangs* of paddy from each *klamin*, which the Datoh refused to pay. The Bendahara then led an expedition from Pèrak against Kurau and took the Datoh prisoner.

On hearing this, the Panglima came down the river and met the Bendahara, and it was then agreed to pay the Bendahara one elephant or \$250, being its estimated value, and 70 *gantangs* of paddy or \$1.75 for each *klamin*. The Panglima then assembled the people and asked whether they would pay this and liberate the Datoh. The people agreed to pay this tax, and the fine and tax was guaranteed by the Panglima.

Datoh REJAB then consulted with Haji OMAR whether this tax was to be continued, and the Haji, who was chief over the Sêlângor people, agreed to its continuance. The tax was then regularly collected under the name *hasil klamin*, and was paid to the Panglima, who had agreed matters as above with the Bendahara, the payments being very regularly kept up for a few years. Some fourteen or fifteen years ago, Datoh REJAB failed to pay the *hasil klamin* to the Panglima, and on the latter demanding the same, it was refused, the Datoh wishing to retain it for his own use. An expedition in the name of Toh Muda GHAFAR was then arranged by the Panglima; it was led by Inchi LIMAH, daughter of the Panglima and wife of Panglima Besar, who again was brother to KANDA HASSAN (still living) (KANDA HASSAN is the father of Haji ABDUL RAUF of Tanjong Piandang and Teluk Srah). The other leaders of the expedition were Inchi MARIAM, another daughter of the Panglima BUKIT GANTANG, together with Panglima Prang SEMAHON, Raja LOP, Raja ALANG, Haji ALI, Maharaja Lela, Panglima KIATA, Panglima KAMPAR, and all the élite of Upper Pêrak.

This war is spoken of as "Prang Panglima Bukit Gantang." When the expedition reached Kurau, the Mantri supplied rice from Lârut to Panglima BUKIT GANTANG and fire-arms to Inchi MAT ALI, son of Datoh REJAB; the Mantri is the nephew of the former Panglima BUKIT GANTANG. War was declared, and Haji OMAR together with Inchi MAHMUD of Teluk Rubiah, both Sêlângor men, joined Inchi MAT ALI. Panglima BUKIT GANTANG'S force erected five stockades at Kwâla Kurau and attacked Inchi MAHMUD at night at Teluk Rubiah. Inchi MAHMUD evacuated his position, but next day informed Inchi MARIAM and LIMA that he was ready to fight,

and returning to Teluk Rubiah erected a stockade, his retreat on the previous night having been only a feint as his preparations were not complete. Inchi MAHMUD was attacked on the same night by a Kota Lama party of 150 men led by their chiefs, who carried the stockade, which had been left in charge of 3 or 4 men to keep up appearances, Inchi MAHMUD and his party retiring into the neighbouring jungle. When the Kota Lama people had occupied the stockade, Inchi MAHMUD'S party returned, surrounded the Kota Lama people, killed 15 or 16, and put the remainder to flight in the greatest confusion, when they were met by Haji OMAR about half way to Kwâla Kurau, who fired into them, and the Kota Lama people then took to their boats, pursued by Haji OMAR, who was for attacking them, but was restrained by Inchi MAHMUD. For two months the Kota Lama people tended their wounded who had suffered severely from *ranjaus* which had been placed by Inchi MAHMUD'S people along the line of retreat which the Kota Lama people would have to follow when retiring from the stockade.

After this Inchi NGAH LAMAT of Bukit Gantang, uncle of the Mantri, hearing of the defeat of the Kota Lama men, came to settle the dispute, but leaving Kwâla Kurau for Bagan Tiang was taken ill and returned to Kurau to die. This led to the return of the Panglima BUKIT GANTANG'S expedition. The Panglima had gained this title because when the Kedah people attacked Pêrak, he lay in ambush for them in the Bukit Berapit pass and defeated them with great slaughter.

*Hasil kllamin* still continued to be paid, but Datoh REJAB retired from the administration of the district, handing over his authority to his fourth son, Inchi MAT ALI, who received the *hasil kllamin* as formerly, and from this war all land cases date. Five years after this, Inchi MAT ALI received a *kuasa* from the Mantri to attack Sultan ALI'S Penghulus at Bagan Tiang, who were led by Panglima Besar, WAN ISMAIL, and MAGAT ARIS. The Bagan Tiang people were defeated, and MAGAT ARIS was wounded in the arm. The English Government sided with the Bagan Tiang people, but rendered no assistance. Another fight took place and Inchi MAT ALI was defeated. Sultan ALI, fearing that Inchi MAT ALI might

organize another attack, transferred his authority over all the districts from Krian to Kurau to the Mantri.

Before the Chinese war, Raja Muda ABDULLAH, as he was then called (not having yet been appointed Sultan), went to Krian and passed himself off as Sultan, he then proceeded to Kurau, where he was visited by Inchi MAT ALI, whose father, TOH REJAB, was still alive. Inchi MAT ALI gave Raja MUDA ABDULLAH \$300 as a present, and the Raja gave him authority over the Kurau district as far as Kampong Tanjong. Inchi MAT ALI continued to collect *hasil klatin* as before from the Sëlângor people of 70 *gantangs* or 7 *sukus*, \$1.75, and from the Penang people the same rate or the value of the paddy, say \$2.80 or 4 cents per *gantang*. This was the rate to 1875. When Mr. BIRCH was appointed Resident, he gave a *kuasa* to Inchi MAT ALI to collect the *hasil klatin* as before, the Inchi to receive one-fifth as commission, the revenue to be paid in at Larut. Inchi MAT ALI collected the tax to the extent of two boat loads of paddy and no more was forthcoming, the Mantri always denying that anything had been paid to him. Thus the matter remained till 1876, when Mr. JEREMIAH instructed Captain SPEEDY to collect it, but owing to the war then being carried on the rate was reduced to \$1, and it remained at this figure till Sir HUGH LOW raised it to its present rate.

N. DENISON.

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MR. R. B. SHARPE ON BIRDS FROM PÊRAK.

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Notes on some Birds from Pêrak. By R. BOWDLER SHARPE, F.L.S., F.Z.S., etc.  
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Thanks to the exertions of Mr. DAVISON, who explored the western side of the Malayan Peninsula, we have a tolerably complete list of the birds of this portion of the Indian Region, and a list of his collections has been given by Mr. HUME